

V I N E Y E A R D

revealing the relationship between Americans and their land

AN OCCASIONAL RECORD OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE

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Making Educated Decisions 2-- Newly Revised Edition Available

The National Park Service Historic Landscape Initiative is pleased to announce the reprinting of *Making Educated Decisions: A Landscape Preservation Bibliography*.

Over the past two decades, and most recently since the publication of the first edition of *Making Educated Decisions: A Landscape Preservation Bibliography*, the field of landscape preservation has witnessed a surge in project work and scholarly writing. These recent advancements have further fueled creative practices in landscape architecture, planning, geography, ethnography, historic preservation, archaeology and American history studies, and can be measured by the increased number of technical publications, journal articles, published conference proceedings and even the first books dedicated to specific aspects of the subject.

The topic of landscape preservation and cultural landscapes now appears in more popular magazines such as *Preservation*, *Landscape Architecture*, *Landscape Design*, and *Garden Design*, among others. This annotated bibliography however, focuses on the former, namely those projects that mirror the National Park Service's mission emphasizing "a wise use of our land, (and) preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places."

In response to this recognized need, an increase in published articles and the desire to remain current, *Making Educated Decisions* has been revised to assist the user in obtaining practical guidance to make informed decisions when researching, planning, managing, interpreting, and undertaking project work for any cultural landscape resource.

In much of this work, the National Park Service (NPS) remains a leader within the field. Since the 1994 publication of *Making Educated Decisions*, the NPS has continued to direct the way with the preparation of *The Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (1996) and *A Guide to Cultural*

Landscape Reports (1999). These two publications, more than any other written work of this period, have created a framework for much of the project work highlighted in this bibliography. For example, a search of the project's database using the key word "Standards and Guidelines" yields twenty-three citations, while the term "Cultural Landscape Report" yields seventeen.

The impact of the NPS efforts goes beyond these two publications, as illustrated by the contributions of park service employees and NPS project work generated by outside consultants. Examples of such publications include *Cultural Resource Management (CRM)*, *George Wright Forum*, and the *APT Bulletin*. Collectively, these three journals alone com-

prise over 28% of the articles included within this bibliography.

Beyond these specific publications, readers are often challenged by conflicting approaches in landscape preservation literature, practice, policy, and interpretations of the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*. For example, in *Pacific Horticulture*, a regional journal which focuses on California gardens and landscapes, the use of treatment terminology (e.g. restoration) is often ambiguous, leaving the reader to wonder if the *Standards and Guidelines* were, in fact, followed.

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Announcing Cultural Landscape Currents on Earthworks and Interpreting Industrial Ruins

The Historic Landscape Initiative is pleased to announce the development of the next two *Cultural Landscape Currents* in our on-line technical series. Unlike the first three *Currents*, these will highlight work undertaken at National Park Service sites. The first *Current*, on Virginus Island will explore the interface between landscape archeology and interpretation while the second one will highlight treatment work at a variety of earthwork sites in both state and national parks.

The *Currents* and their respective authors are as follows: "Virginus Island: Preserving an

Industrial Community in Ruins," by Maureen Joseph and Perry Wheelock, and "Preserving and Managing Military Earthworks," by Shaun Eyring and Lucy Lawliss.

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*Ditch in rear construction along the federal line near Petersburg, VA. 1865.
Courtesy Shaun Eyring, NPS*



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Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service is dedicated to conserving unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The Service is also responsible for managing a great variety of national and international programs designed to help extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.



HPS
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Welcome to **VINEYARD**

At the same time this third edition of *Vineyard* was being prepared, the National Park Service's Discovery 2000 meeting was taking place in St. Louis, Missouri. At the meeting, several themes about the future of the National Park Service (NPS) were made apparent to the over 1300 attendees. No longer can one organization protect the resources under its care for the use and enjoyment of future generations. The future of the NPS, both in terms of cultural and natural stewardship, will depend increasingly on partnership activities. We, as a public agency, need to partner with public, non-profit, and private organizations to ensure that our parks and special communities do not become islands unto themselves, but rather remain interwoven into other facets of our built and natural environment. With the current impact of sprawl, environmental pollution, devastating natural disasters, and the loss of natural habitats, the future of our cultural landscape legacy depends on the decisions we make today in how we protect and manage the context of interconnected resources.

Throughout this conference the importance of leadership and education were stressed as well as the power and potential of national and international alliances. This issue of *Vineyard* responds to this challenge by highlighting the partnership efforts of the Historic Landscape Initiative along with our NPS Cultural Landscape Program colleagues in Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and Atlanta. Additionally, a number of national (e.g. CATALOG of Landscape Records in the United States at Wave Hill, the American Society of Landscape Architects), regional (e.g. River Fields, Inc) state (e.g. Kentucky Heritage Council), local (e.g. Dumbarton Oaks, Branch Brook Park Alliance) and academic partnerships (e.g. University of California at Berkeley, University of Wisconsin-Madison) are reported.

Finally, note that all three editions of *Vineyard* along with our Cultural Landscape *Currents* series are available on line at www2.cr.nps.gov/hli.

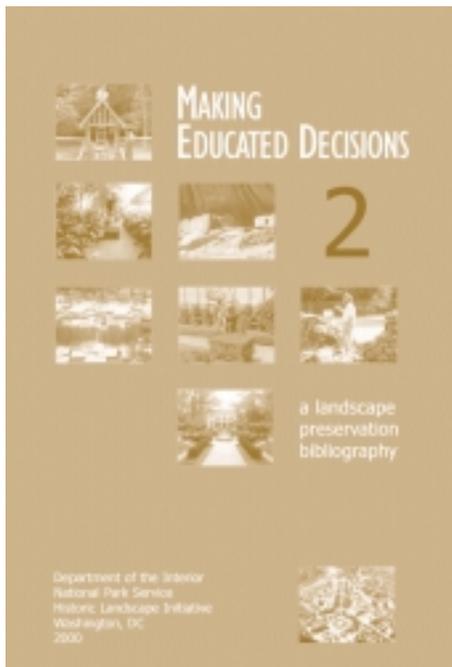
Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA
Coordinator, Historic Landscape Initiative

Mission of the Historic Landscape Initiative

The Historic Landscape Initiative develops preservation planning tools that respect and reveal the relationship between Americans and their land.

The Initiative provides essential guidance to accomplish sound preservation practice on a variety of landscapes, from parks and gardens to rural villages and agricultural landscapes.

The Historic Landscape Initiative is committed to ongoing preservation of cultural landscapes that can yield an improved quality of life for all, a sense of place, and identity for future generations.



Making Educated Decisions
continued from cover

Historic preservation within the field is still emerging. Even though a significant quantity of technical materials has been developed over the last twenty years, professional magazines, such as *Landscape Architecture*, *Preservation*, and *Landscape Design*, often lack clear and accurate critical analysis. For example, *Landscape Design* published a theme issue on Historic Parks in March 1997. Many of the articles were not included within this publication because they failed to illustrate a preservation planning commitment as a basis to inform treatment decisions. Even worse, new project work was often referred to as a “restoration” project and in many instances appeared to have an adverse affect on the landscape’s integral historic and cultural resources. Overall, out of the 667 bibliographic entries presented herein, only forty-six articles are listed from *Landscape Architecture*, the predominant publication of the profession in the U.S., only thirty-four from the British publication, *Landscape Design*, and only one from *Preservation*.

In addition to the shortcomings of the popular presses, more scholarly publications such as *Landscape Journal* (11 entries), *Studies in the History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes* (16 entries), and *Garden History* (28 entries), rarely address the myriad of issues surrounding the treatment and management

of cultural landscapes. Instead these publications emphasize an understanding of a landscape’s evolution over time. In sum, the work often ends with research and may include the development of period plans. This limited perspective implies that the landscape architect or historian who is interested in chronicling a landscape’s continuum over time may not be the same design professional who is developing a “rehabilitation” solution to ensure its change and continuity. Conversely, the landscape preservation projects that have not been included from the popular magazines mentioned earlier, are missing the detailed research and analysis celebrated in these more scholarly journals. The need to better address this multi-disciplinary middle-ground where researcher and practitioner come together is echoed by Delores Hayden in her Foreword to *Preserving Cultural Landscapes in America* (2000). In the book’s opening sentence Hayden notes that “cultural landscape history enhances the possibilities of creative practice in preservation, design, and planning.” In sum, the treatment and management solutions highlighted in this annotated bibliography all meet Hayden’s challenge.

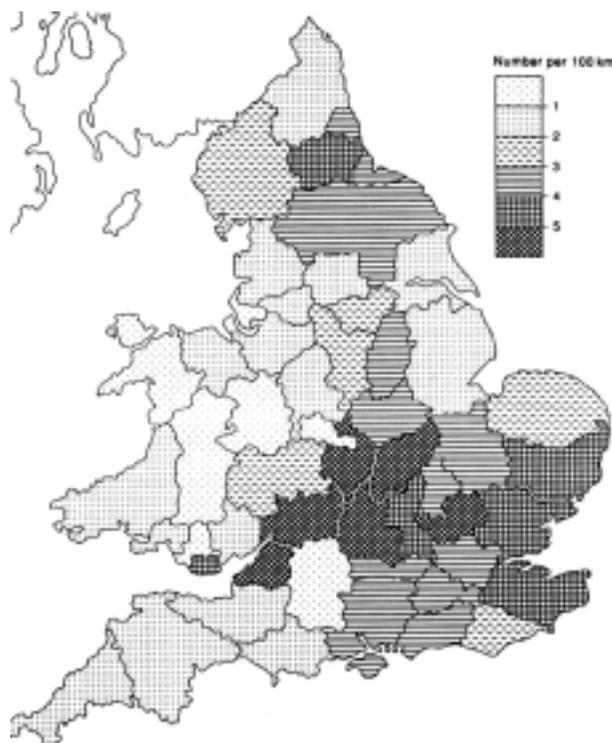
In addition to these broader commonalities within the fields of history, landscape architecture and historic preservation, smaller patterns emerged within related interest groups and fields. One of the most significant developments has been an increased discourse on the interpretation and management of publicly accessible cultural landscapes. This is most evident in *Public Garden*, the primary communication organ of the AABGA (American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta.) Founded in 1940, with over 2,700 members, the AABGA recently formed a Historic Landscape Committee in 1996 with the stated purpose of “promoting historic landscapes as cultural resources and fostering the sharing of experiences and information relevant to preservation, restoration and maintenance.” Since the inception of this specialized committee, the *Public Garden* has had thematic issues and a significant increase in topical es-

says on this subject. In all, there are ten new citations generated over the past five years, thus illustrating the potential impact that a small, specialized committee can have over a larger association’s awareness for this subject (For example, see citation #34).

Another great leap has been made over the past five years in developing tools and strategies for preserving rural and vernacular landscapes. In this instance there has been exciting developments in both British journals and American books. In the U.K. the journals, *Landscape Research* and *Landscape Design* have published a variety of articles highlighting assessment tools and planning strategies for “countryside management” and documenting and preserving community character. For example, recent government initiatives in England and Wales include the documentation of town and village greens and hedgerows using ten-year agreements to restore damaged or neglected hedges. Additionally, a systems approach has been developed for evaluating the historic patterns of settlement and land use in Staffordshire, and guidelines have been

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Sample article from Making Educated Decisions 2, by John Aitchison, documenting the town and village greens of England and Wales, 1996.



adopted to deal with landscape change in the Low Weald region of Kent. Probably the greatest difference in the articles that have been generated in the U.K. over the past five years is an enhanced recognition for community participation. For example, the Hedgerow Incentive Scheme relies upon “voluntary involvement of landowners.” This “grass roots” or “bottom up” approach for making land-use decisions in small towns and rural communities in the U.K. is also the cornerstone of recent American books. This is echoed in Randall Arendt’s Preface to *Rural by Design* (1994) and the second edition of *Saving America’s Countryside* (1997). The authors of the latter revisited their 1989 publication because of the “substantial progress in developing more and better organizations” and “increased cooperation between local governments and non-profits.” The successful projects highlighted in these two American books and several recent articles in *Planning* (“Do Fence Me In: Farmland Preservation in Colorado,” and “Farm Follows Function,”) and the *American Planning Journal* (“Beauty as Well as Bread,” and “From Landmarks to Landscapes,”) celebrate innovative partnerships between residents, local officials, planning staff and preservation planning professionals. As attested to by recent developments in rural landscape preservation, the benefits of public-private partnerships and multi-disciplinary teams can yield innovative approaches.

This revised edition of *Making Educated Decisions* also highlights and documents collaborations between those that care for both natural and cultural systems. Beginning with two thematic issues of the *George Wright Forum* (1996 and 2000) and summarized by Nora Mitchell and Susan Buggey in the latter: “there is now a need to recognize the value of both cultural landscapes and protected landscapes and the convergence in conservation strategies.” This discourse is now being undertaken by, and for, cultural resource specialists in the Forum, while other specialists in the field of ecological restoration are working on similar resources, often considering only its natural and ecological values. As noted in *Restoration and Management Notes*, articles are as much about culture as nature.

These include: “Revegetating Following Logging on Decomposed Granite” which focuses on California trails and the use of fertilizers and native species; “The Greening of Golden Gate” about community-based restoration at the Presidio, or “Tending the Wilderness” which shows how pre-Columbian peoples shaped the landscape’s ecology.

By including such related journals, *Making Educated Decisions 2* hopes to reveal the need for collaboration and illustrates how much we can learn from each other. This is perhaps the greatest development, revealed by the addition of over 150 new articles, many authored by individuals in allied disciplines in just five years.

Cultural landscapes illustrate the tremendous potential for a broad audience, and as such, this publication has been conceived and designed for use by practitioners (landscape architects, horticulturists, architects, planners, archaeologists); stewards (administrators and managers of historic parks and gardens, national park and forests, state historic preservation offices, municipalities, not-for-profit organizations, advocacy groups, professional associations); as well as educators, scholars and students.

In all, this 2nd edition contains 667 annotated citations referenced by subject, author, and geographic indices. The project database has been generated using ProCite bibliographic software. The bibliography is organized alphabetically by author, but can be searched by subject, author, or location utilizing the indices at the end of the book.

For ordering information see The Last Word on page 16.

Endnote: This article has been excerpted from the introduction by Charles A. Birnbaum and Heather L. Barrett for *Making Educated Decisions 2: A Landscape Preservation Bibliography*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2000.

If you have an article or publication that should be included in this database, please send it on to the Coordinator, Historic Landscape Initiative, National Park Service, Heritage Preservation Services 1849 C Street, NW (NC 320) Washington, DC 20240.

Thomas Dolliver Church: Preserving & Interpreting a Landscape Legacy

As reported in an earlier issue of *Vineyard* (see Vol. 1, Issue 1) interest in preserving modern landscape architecture is on a steady increase. When considering the preservation and interpretation of the legacy of Thomas Dolliver Church (1902-1978) there are two exciting recent developments. First, on March 27, 2000, the National Register of Historic Places listed the General Motors Technical Facility in Macomb County, MI. A review of this nomination includes a final amendment prior to listing that recognized the property’s significance under “landscape architecture, transportation and engineering.” This addition to include Thomas Church’s landscape architectural contributions is a first-ever acknowledgement for a modern work by this master and serves as an optimistic development that sets a precedent for future listings.

In addition to this recognition, Thomas Church’s legacy is also the subject of the most recent issue of the *Studies in the History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes* (Vol. 20, No. 2, April-June 2000). This thematic edition, *Thomas Dolliver Church, Landscape Architect* was guest edited by Marc Treib and is an outgrowth of a symposium organized by Treib at the University of California at Berkeley in 1998. The seven papers that comprise this special edition are as follows: “Thomas Church: Defining Styles—The Early Years,” by Dorothee Imbert; “Just Add Water: The Productive Partnership Between Thomas Church and Sunset Magazine” by Daniel Gregory; “Thomas Church: The Modernist Years” by Marc Treib; “Thomas Church as Author: Publicity and the Professional at Mid-Century” by Dianne Harris; “(Re)Working with Thomas Church” by Ron Herman; “Preserving and Interpreting the Landscape Legacy of Thomas Church” by Charles A. Birnbaum; and “Planting Plans, Photographs and Pencils: The Archives of Thomas D. Church” by Waverly B. Lowell and Kelly Shepherd.

The Historic Landscape Initiative was pleased to be a contributor to these efforts. For further information on purchasing a copy of this special edition see The Last Word on page 16.

***Currents on Virginius Island
and Military Earthworks***
continued from cover

**Virginius Island: Preserving an
Industrial Community in Ruins**

Maureen Joseph and Perry Wheelock

Virginius Island was surrounded by the U.S. Armory, and was the only privately owned land with developed waterpower industries and mills in the Harpers Ferry. At its peak in the 1850s, Virginius Island had five industries including a sawmill, machine shop, flour mill, cotton mill and iron foundry; an established residential community; and a few stores. The island's location along the Shenandoah River presented prosperity and eventually destruction, due to frequent floods. When the last resident left the island in 1936, the industrial community was in ruins. Since that time, the National Park Service (NPS), has assumed management. In the last eight years, the NPS has instigated a plan to preserve the remaining fragile resources and interpret them to the public. Two subsequent floods in 1996 have caused the NPS to reassess their plans to prevent further deterioration of the island's landscape.

*Moderately managed forest at
Richmond National Battlefield Park, 1998.
Photos courtesy Shaun Eyring, NPS*



**Preserving and Managing Military
Earthworks**

Shaun Eyring and Lucy Lawliss

This upcoming segment of *Currents* will focus on the issues of preserving and managing military earthworks in the public domain and the technologies used to achieve the highest level of protection. From early times, ground was consciously shaped by warring men to provide cover and protection before, during and after the battle. Today, these remnant forms are generically referred to as military earthworks and are often the only

remaining visible evidence of a battle. Their preservation requires a careful balance of research and documentation, planning, maintenance, and education.

In the United States, numerous historic battlefields held by private, local, state, and federal jurisdictions, contain remnant military earthworks. The National Park Service, for example, manages earthen fortifications in over thirty battlefield parks that include examples from the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the War with Mexico, the Civil War, the late nineteenth century coastal defenses, and World War I.

The earthworks *Current* will contain interactive information on the history and identification of military fortifications and descriptions of the latest technologies for managing earthworks in both forested and open conditions. Case studies from federal, state, and local parks will augment descriptive in-

If you have been involved with a treatment project that would be appropriate to highlight in a future *Current* contact the Historic Landscape Initiative. To visit the *Currents* on the web, go to www2.cr.nps.gov/hli/currents.

*Lithograph of Virginius Island
by Thomas Sachse, Baltimore, ca. 1857.
Courtesy Harpers Ferry NHP*

Branch Brook Park Partnerships—Alliance of Local, State and National Groups Plan to Rehabilitate First Major Urban Park by Olmsted Brothers

James Lecky
Branch Brook Park Alliance

Branch Brook Park consists of over 400 acres of broad vistas, picturesque groupings of plant materials, hidden pools and shaded paths in Newark, New Jersey. Designed by the Olmsted Brothers firm, this nationally-recognized historic designed landscape is the jewel in the crown of the nation's first county park system. Its well-known collection of nearly 3,000 flowering cherry trees form a unique display in their naturalistic setting, culminating a carefully-orchestrated progression from the formal and exotic treatment of the southern end of the park, to informal and native plantings as the visitor moves north.

Starting in the fall of 1999, an ad-hoc committee of individuals came together as the Branch Brook Park Alliance to help restore, renew, and cooperatively maintain the park. To insure that its designers' vision endures well into the new millennium, their goal is to raise public awareness and support for the rehabilitation of Branch Brook Park.

Recognizing that the rehabilitation of an historic designed landscape involves research and documentation prior to any work, one of its first goals is to work with the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs to develop a comprehensive Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) including a Management Plan for Branch Brook Park.

Ultimately, the Alliance would like to develop a formal partnership structure with Essex County, similar to the Prospect Park Alliance in Brooklyn and the Olmsted Park Conservancy in Louisville, to oversee the implementation of the plan and the ongoing maintenance of the park.

Since last fall, the Alliance has held several meetings to recruit membership from constituencies and park users interested in civic culture, community building, environmentalism, historic preservation and natural history.

Last April, the Coordinator of the NPS Historic Landscape Initiative (HLI), spent two days visiting Branch Brook Park for a first hand look at this nationally significant landscape. Beginning with a morning walk with some of the Alliance's stakeholders, the HLI Coordinator noted the landscape's high degree of integrity and placed the park in the context of other important urban parks in America. For example, one observation was the grouping of most of the active recreation in one area of the park, which has kept large areas of parkland, namely trees over lawn, free



of inappropriate intrusions.

Following the walk, the HLI Coordinator began to discuss strategies and opportunities over a lunch at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. Later that day, at a ceremony announcing the formation of the Alliance, the American Society of Landscape Architects honored Branch Brook Park with its Centennial Medallion. The evening concluded with a public lecture at the Newark Museum's Billy Johnson Auditorium on the partnerships and strategies that have been used in cities across the country to rehabilitate historic parks.

While the Alliance is working on developing a CLR, it has also begun planning for an expanded Cherry Blossom Festival next spring and increasing public awareness about the history, design and significance of Branch Brook Park by launching a new website (www.connection-newark.org/bbpa).

Although Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. proposed a "Central Park for Newark" for the same site as the future Branch Brook Park in 1868, no work was begun until nearly 30 years later. Since the relatively small area of Newark made comprehensive planning diffi-



*TOP: Branch Brook Lake, Branch Brook Park, Newark, NJ
Courtesy Charles A. Birnbaum*

*LEFT: Bogart and Barrett Plan for Southern and Middle Divisions, Branch Brook Park, Newark, NJ, 1896-97.
Courtesy James Lecky*

cult on the municipal level, public-minded local citizens realized that large-scale projects could be better achieved on a county-wide scale. This foresighted local response to the City Beautiful Movement resulted in the creation of the Essex County Park Commission in 1895.

The Commission's enduring achievement, the Essex County Park System, is the oldest county park system in the United States. It was designed as a master plan encompassing over thirty elements: small urban parks, larger scenic parks within the city and suburban reservations, all linked by county parkways.

The Olmsted Brothers were formally and continuously associated with the Essex County Park System from 1898 to 1949; thus, the parks designed and built during this period—virtually the entire system as it currently exists—exhibit an unusual degree of coherent planning and continuity of vision.

Branch Brook Park was the earliest component of the comprehensive system. Despite Frederick Law Olmsted Sr.'s prior association with the site, the first plan for the park was developed by Nathan Barrett and John Bogart. Bogart is best known as an engineer on Central and Prospect parks while Barrett laid out such planned communities as Pullman, IL and Chevy Chase, MD. After construction was begun on Bogart and Barrett's plan (including three bridges designed by Carrère and Hastings), the Park Commission solicited a new design from the Olmsted Brothers firm, which was required to incorporate the built elements of the Bogart and Barrett plan.

Branch Brook Park is among the first major urban parks by the prolific Olmsted Brothers firm. Although comparable in size to its metropolitan area neighbors, Central and Prospect parks designed by Olmsted and Vaux, Branch Brook Park differs from their contained rectangular or polygonal plans. Rather, the park is a superb example of the serpentine naturalistic park exemplified by other Olmsted designs such as the Emerald Necklace Parks, Boston, and Riverside Park, New York.

The park's layout was dictated by the Branch Brook, a tributary of the First River. The Olmsted Brothers skillfully created broad vistas and picturesque groupings all in the space of a shallow, narrow valley. Up to and during most of the 19th century, this land was sparsely populated, too poor or swampy

for farming or development. The Morris Canal curved through the area, almost parallel to the Branch Brook. Its southern portion flanked the industrial development that had existed since colonial times along the First River. Sandstone quarries flourished near the middle portion of the park. An early highway to the west, the Old Road to Bloomfield, crossed what would become the northern limit of the original park.

The Olmsted firm's design consisted of three divisions: the Southern, from Sussex Avenue to Park Avenue, in which the elaborate "gardenesque" elements of the Bogart and Barrett were retained; the Middle, from Park Avenue to Bloomfield Avenue, which would be a transitional zone, mixing the exotic with the indigenous; and the Northern, from Bloomfield Avenue to Heller Parkway, where the mature vision of the man-made, yet "naturalistic" landscape could be fully realized.

The overall design was unified by the continuous valley of the land it occupied, the waterway, drives and walks. Despite the differing qualities of each division, John Charles Olmsted wrote: "The lawns and plantations also have throughout such a consistent treatment that the thought would scarcely occur to any one in passing from one division to another that there was more than one park."

As the primary exponents of the naturalistic park, the Olmsted Brothers were rather condescending about the "garden-like features and ornamentation" of Bogart and Barrett's design in a 1901 report to the Park Commission. "The Southern Division of Branch Brook Park is designed to be relatively ornate and full of very obvious and tangible special constructions and plantations which are likely to be particularly attractive to the majority of visitors rather than to the smaller number who have a much higher satisfaction and enjoyment of simple naturalistic scenery."

Today, however, the formal plantings in the Southern Division have disappeared, and except for the built elements—terraces, viaducts, mounds and berms—the area

is defined by serpentine paths, a long, narrow lake and trees and shrubs, both original and overgrown, in natural-like groupings. Many of the vistas to the water have been lost, due to encroaching, invasive woody plants.

As John Charles Olmsted noted, the Middle Division was designed to have a character "intermediate between the distinctly artificial style of the Southern Division and the tolerably natural style of the Northern Division." Irregular groupings and curving lines are more pronounced, but "artificially produced," gardenesque trees and shrubs—such as those with purple, or golden or silvery foliage—were permitted, so long as they do not appear as "a collection of such curious freaks of nature."

The Middle Division is dominated by a long meadow which now contains most of the active recreation in the park bordered by a broad, wandering placid brook. The baseball diamonds and playing fields, while largely confined to this area, are poorly sited—as a result, the effect of the original plan is mostly lost. For example, the HLI Coordinator noted the chain link backstops which were sited in close proximity to the water's edge, destroying the picturesque views to and from the watercourse.

The Olmsted tradition was best served in the design of the Northern Division, the largest and most truly naturalistic section of Branch Brook Park. Its transformation from swampy lowlands and scruffy fields into an

*Midwood Drive Bridge, Northern Division,
Branch Brook Park, NJ.
Courtesy Charles A. Birnbaum*



Branch Brook Park

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inspired juxtaposition of meadow, stream and grove is lovingly recorded in scores of historic photographs by John Charles Olmsted.

The original park was extended in the late 1920's when, after a visit to Washington, D.C., Caroline Bamberger Fuld, the sister of the founder of Newark's largest department store, desired a flowering oriental cherry display for Newark that would rival that of the capitol; with Mrs. Fuld providing funds for their purchase and planting, 2,050 trees—50 more than those then established in Washington—were selected by the Olmsted firm. Between 1928 and 1933, the trees were set out on additional land flanking the Second River acquired by the Park Commission, and known as the Branch Brook Park Extension.

To the Olmsted firm, however, the number of trees was far less important than their use in the landscape design. The topography of the Second River valley, with steep banks rising to gentle hills, provided ample opportunity for picturesque and naturalistic groupings inspired by oriental painting. This quality was hardly present in the stiff and formal plantings around the Tidal Basin, which relied on pattern and density for their effect. Since the 1930's, well over 1000 trees have been added to the display, making it one of the best known features in the landscape today and one of the largest and most unique collections in the world.

Since last spring, the HLI has continued to work with the Alliance on realizing a CLR can also serve as a model project for other parks in the county-wide system. Over the past months the HLI has made two additional trips, assisted in writing an RFQ (Request for Qualifications), developed a list of potential consultants, and is presently working with the Alliance to develop a RFP (Request for Proposals). In addition to providing technical assistance, the HLI has participated in meetings with key stakeholders and public forums to raise the awareness for Branch Brook Park. Seen within this first-ever county-wide system, the HLI has suggested that the park and park system may be potentially eligible as a National Historic Landmark—the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a historically significant property in the United States.

A Celebration of the Country Place Era: The Designed Landscapes of Louisville's Historic River Road

On January 13, 2001 a one-day conference will be held at the Speed Art Museum in Louisville, Kentucky, to highlight the pioneering landscape architects who created the Country Place Estates along the historic River Road. The Conference was developed by the National Park Service Historic Landscape Initiative along with River Fields, one of America's oldest river conservation groups. This conference builds on the technical assistance work provided by the HLI (featured in the first two issues of *Vineyard*).

The one-day conference will feature the following speakers and presentations:

Keynote: The Country Place Era: Estates and their Patrons

Mac Griswold is a garden historian who writes frequently for *The New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

Louisville's Unique Legacy: The Designed Estates along River Road

Carolyn Brooks is the director of the Farmington House Museum in Louisville, Kentucky. While serving as a historic preservation consultant she prepared the nomination for the National Register District for the Country estates of River Road.

Marion Coffin: From Fort Ticonderoga to Winterthur

Valencia Libby is an associate professor in the Department of landscape Architecture, Temple University, Ambler, Pennsylvania.

Bryant Fleming: Pioneer Landscape Architect
Frances Lumbard, Landscape designer and historian, Nashville, Tennessee.

A Context for the Olmsted Brothers: Parks and Estate Commissions in Louisville

Arleyn Levee is a landscape historian, designer, and landscape preservation advocate in Belmont, Massachusetts.

Preserving the Landscape Legacy of the Country Place Era

Charles A. Birnbaum, FASLA, Coordinator, Historic Landscape Initiative, NPS.

The day following the conference the Speed Museum will feature two documentaries which highlight the preservation of historic landscapes.

For more information: contact River Fields at 502.583.3060 or email them at: riverflds@aol.com

Pioneers of American landscape design who designed estates along Louisville's River Road, such as Bryant Fleming (left) and Marion Cruger Coffin (right), will be featured in the one-day conference at the Speed Art Museum in Louisville. Photos courtesy Private Collections.

